

What is claimed:

1. A remote keyless entry electroluminescent (EL) device including at least one depressible button segment for activating a vehicle function, said entry
5 device comprising:

an upper housing, said upper housing including at least one aperture;

an EL film integral to said upper housing for illuminating at least one display
area;

a printed circuit board disposed under said upper housing;

10 an electrical contact for supplying a power source from said printed circuit board to said EL film for illumination; and

a lower housing joined to said upper housing, to encase said printed circuit board;

wherein said EL film is in-molded as part of said upper housing for forming a
15 single component.

2. The EL device of claim 1 wherein said EL film is injection molded onto said upper housing.

20 3. The EL device of claim 1 wherein said EL film is in-molded to said upper case to form a continuous surface area.

4. The EL device of claim 3 wherein said at least one depressible button segment is formed over said at least one aperture.

25 5. The EL device of claim 4 wherein said display area is disposed on said at least one button segment.

6. The EL device of claim 1 wherein said display area comprises a graphical display.

7. The EL device of claim 6 wherein said graphical display is illuminated
5 by at least one phosphor ink.

8. The EL device of claim 1 further comprising a graphic display, wherein said display area comprises an area outlining said graphical display.

10 9. The EL device of claim 1 further comprising a graphical display, wherein said display area comprises said graphical display and an area outside of said graphical display.

10. The EL device of claim 1 wherein said at least one button segment
15 comprises a depressible button, said depressible button extends through said aperture, said upper casing and said depressible button are attached by a connecting element.

11. The EL device of claim 11 wherein said connecting element comprises a rubberized pad.

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12. The EL device of claim 11 wherein said EL film is disposed on a region around said depressible button, said region provides illumination for background lighting to said depressible button.

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13. The EL device of claim 1 wherein said electrical contact comprises a zero insertion force connector.

14. The EL device of claim 1 wherein said electrical contact comprises a spring contact.

15. The EL device of claim 1 wherein said electrical contact includes a crimp style connector.

5 16. The EL device of claim 1 wherein said electrical contact includes a conductive epoxy, said conductive epoxy compressible between said printed circuit board and said EL film.